THE FIFTH DAY.

Friday, the 13th March, 1925.

The Assembly met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at 12-10 P. M. the Dewan presiding.

DEWAN : I am sorry I am late. We will proceed with the representations.

34. Communications in the Devicolam Division.

MR. C. A. A. MEERA ROWTHER (*Member, Peermade taluk*) described the hardships experienced by the people owing to lack of proper communications in the undeveloped taluks of Peermade and Devicolam which were, however, bringing in a large annual revenue to the Government under land tax, excise and forests. The six feet trace from Cumbam to Vandanmettu should be metalled and converted into a cart road, as it was the only route for the transport of cardamoms to British India and food-stuffs to the estates. All the transport was now done by means of headloads or mules and the cost was very high. The work, though most urgently required, had not been taken up even after repeated representations in the Assembly. The proposal had the active support of the Cardamom Planters' Association.

The Kumili-Devicolam road, sanctioned long ago, had progressed only as far as Periakanal. The portion from Kumili to Vandanmet should at least be completed soon.

The Kumili-Aladi pathway, the only communication for the removal of timber from the coupes, was in a deplorable condition. The road should be improved and rendered fit for cart traffic.

DEWAN : In the first place, you have said that there is only a foot path from Vandanmettu to Cumbam and that there should be a cart road instead. The Chief Engineer will be asked to look into the matter, to prepare an estimate and send a report to the Government.

As regards the road from Kumili to Kattappanai, it has been aligned and will be widened. Some more work will be done next year.

As regards the road from Kumili to Aiyappankoil, there have been breaches due to heavy rains and these breaches will be repaired by the Government.

35. Concessions to Jenmies.

MR. P. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Jenmies, Quilon Division*) made the following requests on behalf of the Malayala Brahmin community.

(i) Lands adjoining *Devaswomvaka* and *Brahmaswomvaka* lands belonging to the *jenmies* and wrongly recorded as *pcramboke* at the last settlement should be transferred to the ownership of *jenmies*, or at least registered in their names.

(ii) Exemption should be granted to the *jenmies* from payment of income tax on the income derived from *Karamozhivu* lands in their possession,

(iii) The money diverted from religious endowments, etc., for expenditure on special schools should be utilised for the grant of scholarships to boys of the community.

(iv) The scheme of studies in the Veda Branch of the Sanskrit College required revision. The best arrangement would be to provide instruction in the Vedas, etc., under qualified *Tantries* in the important temples in each group, under the control of the Devaswom Department.

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(v) Greater representation should be vouchsafed to the community in the Legislative Council, the Popular Assembly and other popular bodies.

(vi) Two *jenmies* from each Division should be co-opted as members of the Legislative Council when the Jenmi-Kudiyan Regulation Amendment Bill was taken up. Arrangements should be devised to prevent the neglect or invasion of the rights and interests of minority communities by the Legislative Council ; and Bills affecting such interests should be held in abeyance till adequate safeguards were provided.

(vii) As prayed for by the Yogakshema Sabha, a family law relating to Malayala Brahmins should be passed.

(viii) Adequate encouragement should be given to qualified members of the community in the public service.

(ix) More appointments in the Devaswom Department should be conferred on members of the community.

(x) A Sanskrit School should be established at Tiruvalla where there was a large resident population of Malayala Brahmins.

DEWAN : The first prayer of the member is for exemption from income tax in respect of rents realised by *jenmies*. I have already given a reply with regard to that subject to Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar.

The member next urges that the money spent till now on the special schools at Tiruvalla and Kumaranallur should be given to Nambutiri boys as scholarships. We are just now issuing revised rules on the subject of scholarships and we will have to wait and see how these rules work.

The member considers that the present curriculum in the Veda Branch of the Sanskrit College is not suitable and suggests that arrangements should be made for religious instruction being given in the Devaswoms. It is a matter which requires examination, and the Devaswom Commissioner will be asked to consider the proposal and submit a report to the Government on the subject.

The next request made by the member is that there should be increased representation of *jenmies* on non-official bodies. That will be remembered and whatever can be done will be done.

In regard to the Jenmi-Kudiyan Bill, the member in the first place wants a large number of *jenmies*, two for each Revenue Division, to be co-opted when the Bill is taken up for consideration in the Legislative Council. But, under the Regulation, only two members could be co-opted for any Bill. Government have to consider whether both the persons to be co-opted should be from the *jenmies* or not.

The member next says that the constitution of the Legislative Council should be so revised as to ensure the proper consideration and disposal of matters relating to minorities. That is a very important question. I now remember vaguely that there is some literature connected with the question and that it has come up for consideration in other parts of India. That literature will have to be examined. As it is a very important constitutional question, it is impossible for me to say anything more about it at present.

In regard to the enactment of a law relating to inheritance, etc., among the members of the Malayala Brahmin community, the proper procedure is for the members of the community in the Council to introduce a private Bill.

In regard to the entertainment in larger numbers of members of the community in Government service, I have no other answer than what I have given to other members who spoke on the representation of backward communities in the service.

Finally, the member wants a Sanskrit School to be opened at Tiruvalla. With regard to that, a report will be called for from the Director of Public Instruction.

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